

23. (Twice Amended) The switch according to claim 1 further comprising an optical element for illuminating the switch, a micro controller, resistances, and diodes mounted on the zone of the flexible conductor for supporting the switch elements.

24. (Twice Amended) The switch according to claim 1 wherein the zone of the conductor for supporting the switch elements is detachably connected to the haptic element.

25. (Twice Amended) The switch according to claim 1 wherein the switch has, in addition to the switch elements, further electrical and/or electronic structural elements.

26. (Twice Amended) The switch according to claim 1 wherein the zone of the haptic element associated with the switch elements forms at least one operating element of the haptic element.

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 have been amended to place them in better form for U.S. practice. Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. It is respectfully requested that the changes to the claims be carefully reviewed by the Examiner and entered prior to examination.

Due to the number of amendments, a substitute specification pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.125 and MPEP § 608.01 (q) is submitted herewith to facilitate the prosecution of this application. The substitute specification is accompanied by a marked up copy showing the changes between the original application, as filed, and the substitute specification. The substitute specification does not contain any new matter and includes the same changes as are indicated in the marked up copy. Applicant respectfully requests that the substitute specification be entered in this case.

Application No: 10/088,456

Applicant also submits herewith a proposed drawing correction to FIG. 3 in accordance with MPEP § 608.02(v) along with a separate letter to the official draftsman pursuant to MPEP § 608.02(r). The drawing amendment merely conforms FIG. 3 with the specification, and therefore in no way constitutes new matter. Specifically, FIG. 3 has been amended to add a missing reference numeral. Applicant respectfully requests that amended FIG. 3 be entered in this case.


Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In view of the forgoing amendments and remarks, consideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By


Rodney Warfford
Reg. No. 51,304
626/795-9900

MEG/RVW/gmv

MEE PAS441619.1-* -10/2/02 3:49 PM

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 1-26 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) ~~{Switch}~~ A switch to be mounted on a design element in the passenger room of a motor vehicle, ~~{with}~~ comprising:
 - a haptic element ~~{(1, 1', 1'') which has}~~ having a base body, a socket, and at least one mechanical operating element ; ~~{(11) for the switch,}~~ and
 - a flexible conductor having electric and/or electronic switch elements ~~{(21, 21', 22, 22', 23, 24, 24') which are mounted on a flexible conductor (2, 2a, 2b)}~~, and a zone supporting the switch elements, wherein the haptic element ~~{(1, 1', 1'')}~~ acts on ~~{the}~~ at least one switch ~~{elements (21, 21', 22, 22', 23, 24', 24')}~~ element when the operating element ~~{(11)}~~ is actuated, ~~{~~ — the and wherein the zone ~~{(20, 20')}~~ of the flexible conductor ~~{(2, 2a, 2b) supporting the switch elements (21, 21', 22, 22', 23, 24, 24')}~~ and an associated zone ~~{(11)}~~ of the haptic element ~~{(1, 1', 1'')}~~ are configured so that ~~{the corresponding zones (11, 20, 20') can be}~~ they are positioned and fixed relative to each other ~~{whilst}~~ without establishing a [no] permanent electrical conductive connection [~~is established~~] between the flexible conductor ~~{(2, 2a, 2b)}~~ and the haptic element ~~{(1), (1', 1''),}~~ and wherein [~~— when positioning the zone (20, 20') of the flexible conductor (2, 2a, 2b) supporting the switch elements (21, 21', 22, 22', 23, 24, 24'),~~ the socket receives the switch elements ~~{(21, 21', 22, 22', 23, 24, 24') can be inserted into a socket (12, 120) of the haptic element (1, 1', 1'') which is provided with the operating element (11) so}~~ such that [a] the base body ~~{(10) of the haptic element (1, 1', 1'') together with}~~ and the operating element ~~{(11)}~~ receives receive the switch elements ~~{(21, 21', 22, 22', 23, 24, 24') as they are inserted},~~

and †

~~as~~ wherein when the socket receives the switch elements [(21, 21', 22, 22', 23, 24, 24')] are inserted into the socket (12, 120) the switch elements [(21, 21', 22, 22', 23, 24, 24')] enter into an active connection with the operating element ~~(11)~~ so that a switch signal is triggered during actuation of the operating element ~~[(11)]~~ by means of the switch elements ~~[(21, 21', 22, 22', 23, 24, 24')]~~.

2. (Amended) ~~{Switch}~~ The switch according to claim 1 ~~{characterised in that}~~ wherein the haptic element ~~{(1, 1', 1')}~~ cannot be brought into electrically conductive connection with at least one of the switch elements ~~[(21, 21', 22, 22', 23, 24, 24')]~~

3. (Twice Amended) ~~{Switch}~~ The switch according to claim 1 ~~{characterised in that}~~ wherein the haptic element ~~{(1, 1', 1')}~~ has no electrically conductive component parts which can be coupled electrically with at least one of the switch elements ~~[(21, 21', 22, 22', 23, 24, 24')]~~.

4. (Amended) ~~{Switch}~~ The switch according to claim 1 ~~{characterised in that}~~ wherein the haptic element ~~{(1, 1', 1')}~~ can only be brought into electrically conductive connection with at least one of the switch elements ~~[(21, 21', 22, 22', 23, 24, 24')]~~ by actuating ~~{an}~~ the operating element ~~{(11)}~~ of the haptic element ~~{(1, 1', 1')}~~.

5. (Amended) ~~{Switch}~~ The switch according to claim 4 ~~{characterised in that}~~ wherein the electrically conductive connection only exists for as long as the switch is ~~{located}~~ in ~~{the}~~ a switching state established by actuating the operating element ~~{(11)}~~.

6. (Twice Amended) ~~{Switch}~~ The switch according to claim 1, ~~{characterised in that}~~ wherein the haptic element ~~{(1, 1', 1')}~~ has no electrical structural elements apart from an electrical conductor.

7. (Twice Amended) ~~{Switch}~~ The switch according to claim 1, ~~{characterised in that}~~ wherein the haptic element ~~{(1, 1', 1')}~~ has as a single electrically conductive component which can be coupled electrically with at least one of the switch elements ~~{(21, 21', 22, 22', 23, 24, 24')}~~ which is a contact bridge with which an electrical connection can be established between two switch elements ~~{(21, 21', 22, 22', 23, 24, 24')}~~.

8. (Twice Amended) ~~{Switch}~~ The switch according to claim 1, ~~{characterised in that}~~ wherein the ~~{relevant}~~ zones ~~{(11, 20, 20')}~~ of the conductor ~~{(2, 2a, 2b)}~~ and the haptic element ~~{(1)}~~ are formed as mechanical plug connectors and wherein ~~{a}~~ the base body ~~{(10)}~~ of the haptic element ~~{(1) has a}~~ includes the socket zone ~~{(12)}~~ with which the zone ~~{(20, 20')}~~ of the flexible conductor ~~{(2)}~~ for supporting the switch elements ~~{(21, 21', 22, 22')}~~ can be is brought into positive engagement.

9. (Amended) ~~{Switch}~~ The switch according to claim 8 ~~{characterised in that}~~ wherein the zone of the flexible conductor ~~{(2)}~~ for supporting the switch elements ~~{(21, 21', 22, 22', 23, 24, 24')}~~ has a mechanical reinforcement ~~{(121, 122, 123, 124)}~~ element.

10. (Twice Amended) ~~{Switch}~~ The switch according to claim 9 ~~{characterised in that}~~ wherein the mechanical reinforcement element is formed as one of a frame ~~{(124)}~~ around the edges of the conductor, a plate ~~{(123, 125) at the}~~ attached to a back

~~for~~ surface of the conductor and a cast element ~~{(121, 122)}~~ which surrounds the relevant zone ~~(20)~~.

11. (Twice Amended) ~~{Switch}~~ The switch according to claim 9 ~~{characterised in that}~~ wherein the mechanical reinforcement ~~element~~ has at least one detent element ~~{(125b)}~~ for securing the insert position in respect of the haptic element and/or means ~~{(125a)}~~ for sealing the plug zone against damp.

12. (Twice Amended) ~~{Switch}~~ The switch according to claim 1 ~~{characterised in that}~~ wherein the ~~{relevant}~~ zones ~~{(11, 20')}~~ of the conductor ~~{(2)}~~ and haptic element ~~{(1', 1'')}~~ are formed as clamp-fit connections wherein ~~{a}~~ the base body ~~{(10)}~~ of the haptic element ~~{(1', 1'')}~~ ~~has a~~ includes the socket zone ~~{(120)}~~ and a fixing element ~~{(12', 12'')}~~ connectable therewith so that the zone ~~{(20')}~~ of the flexible conductor ~~{(2)}~~ for supporting the switch elements ~~{(22, 22')}~~ can be clamped between the socket ~~zone~~ ~~{(120)}~~ of the haptic element and the fixing element ~~{(12', 12'')}~~.

13. (Amended) ~~{Switch}~~ The switch according to claim 12 ~~{characterised in that}~~ wherein the fixing element ~~{(12')}~~ is connected in one piece with the base body ~~{(10)}~~ of the haptic element through a film hinge and wherein the fixing element and the base body are each composed of a plastic material ~~{(12b)}~~ ~~of a plastics base body (10) of the haptic element (1')~~.

14. (Amended) ~~{Switch}~~ The switch according to claim ~~11~~ 12 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the fixing element and the base body of the haptic element are separate component parts and wherein the fixing element ~~{(12'')}~~ is formed as a ~~separate~~ clamping plate.

15. (Amended) ~~{Switch}~~ The switch according to claim 12 ~~characterised in that~~ further comprising means are provided for positioning the zone of the flexible conductor for supporting the switch elements relative to the base body of the haptic element.

16. (Amended) ~~{~~ ~~Switch}~~ The switch according to claim 15 ~~{characterised in that the}~~ wherein the means for positioning ~~{means}~~ the zone of the conductor are formed on the ~~{part of the~~ flexible conductor ~~{(2)}~~ in the form of ~~{recesses (126)}~~ at least one recess and on the ~~{part of the}~~ base ~~{member}~~ body of the haptic element in the form of corresponding studs ~~{or the like}~~.

17. (Twice Amended) ~~{~~ ~~Switch}~~ The switch according to claim 1 ~~{characterised in that}~~ wherein the switch elements ~~{(22, 22')}~~ provided on the flexible conductor ~~{(2)}~~ are formed as electrical contact faces which are allocated an electrical contact bridge which is connected to ~~{an}~~ the operating element ~~{(11)}~~ of the haptic element ~~{(1)}~~ and which when the operating element ~~{(11)}~~ is actuated closes ~~{the}~~ an electrical circuit connected to at least one of the switch elements.

18. (Twice Amended) ~~{~~ ~~Switch}~~ The switch according to claim 1 ~~{characterised in that the switch elements (24, 24')}~~ provided on the flexible conductor (2) are provided in boxes, e.g. in the form of SMD switches or switch mats.

19. (Twice Amended) ~~{~~ ~~Switch}~~ The switch according to claim 1 ~~{characterised in that}~~ wherein the switch elements provided on the flexible conductor ~~{(2)}~~ are designed as magneto-resistive structural elements ~~{(e.g. Hall elements)}~~ which are each allocated a permanent magnet which is connected to an actuating element of the haptic element.

20. (Twice Amended)~~{——Switch}~~ The switch according to claim 1 ~~{characterised in that}~~wherein the switch elements provided on the flexible conductor ~~{(2)}~~ are formed as inductive or capacitive close range approach switches.

21. (Twice Amended)~~{——Switch}~~ The switch according to claim 1, ~~{characterised in that}~~wherein the switch elements provided on the flexible conductor ~~{(2)}~~ are formed as transponder readers.

22. (Twice Amended)~~{——Switch}~~ The switch according to claim 1 ~~{characterised in that}~~wherein the switch elements provided on the flexible conductor ~~{(2)}~~ are formed as passive or active optical elements allocated on the ~~{part of the}~~ operating ~~{elements}~~ element of the haptic element ~~{means}~~ for reflection for the purpose of establishing a visual transmission path or means for interrupting a visual transmission path.

23. (Twice Amended)~~{——Switch}~~ The switch according to claim 1 ~~{characterised in that further structural elements (3a, 3b) such as for example}~~further comprising an optical element for illuminating the switch, a micro controller, resistances, and diodes~~{or the like, are}~~ mounted on the zone ~~{(20)}~~ of the flexible conductor ~~{(2)}~~for supporting the switch elements.

24. (Twice Amended)~~{——Switch}~~ The switch according to claim 1 ~~{characterised in that}~~wherein the zone ~~{(20)}~~of the conductor for supporting the switch elements is detachably connected to the haptic element ~~{(1, 1', 1'')}~~.

25. (Twice Amended)~~{——Switch}~~ The switch according to claim 1 ~~{characterised in that}~~wherein the switch has, in addition to the

Application No: 10/088,456

switch elements~~{(21), {21', 22, 22', 23, 24, 24'}} also~~ further electrical and/or electronic structural elements.

26. (Twice Amended)~~{Switch}~~ The switch according to claim 1 ~~{characterised in that}~~ wherein the zone ~~{(11)}~~ of the haptic element~~{(1, 1', 1'')}~~ associated with the switch elements ~~{(21, 21', 22, 22', 23, 24, 24')}~~ }forms~~{ at the same time}~~ at least one operating element of the haptic element~~{(1, 1', 1'')}~~.